11th May 1954]

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, at least in the case of hunger, and that particularly affecting little children, will the Government cease to make a distinction between Backward Classes and Forward Classes and supply meals to all children, who are hungry? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, the expenditure involved will be very large. We are already spending Rs. 16 lakhs on this particular item. If we give midday meals to children of the Backward Classes also the expenditure will come to not less than Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs. At a meeting held by the Backward Classes Board they decided that they would prefer non-residential scholarships for students studying in the Arts Colleges and who belong to the Backward Classes."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, ஆரம்பக் கல்வியை துரிதமாக நாட்டில் பரப்புவதற்கு மாணவர்களுக்கு மத்தியான வேளை சாப்பாடு போடுவது அவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. அரசாங்கம் இதற்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் செலவு செய்யவேண்டுமானாலும் அதைச் செலவு செய்து, ஆரம்பக் கல்வியைப் பரப்புவதற்காக மாணவர்களுக்கு மத்தியான உணவு போடுவதற்கு முன்வருவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I cannot give any assurance."

Relief to areas affected by leprosy in South Kanara.

* 671 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTHA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the areas that have high incidence of leprosy in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to bring relief to these areas?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Incidence of leprosy is high in the Shirva area and the Kumbla area.

" (*b*) In the Kumbla firka a scheme for leprosy relief and prevention has been working under the Rural Welfare Department since 15th January 1952. Sulphone treatment is being administered to the patients.

In the Shirva area Government appointed a special leprosy health inspector for survey work and he worked for a period of two years carrying out a thorough investigation into the incidence of leprosy. The Medical Officer of the District Board dispensary at Shirva has been trained in leprosy and a local committee in association with the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, South Kanara Branch, have plans for opening a leprosy clinic in Shirva. The Government have allotted a plot of ground for the construction of the clinic and they are also considering a request of the Panchayat Board, Shirva, for financial assistance to build the clinic. Besides, there is a Government aided leprosy hospital at Kankanady with accommodation for 142 patients. There is also a leprosy treatment centre at Badiakda which is run by the Grama Seva Samaj and subsidised by the Government."